

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 remain pending in the present application. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 4, and further amended according to page 13, 5th paragraph. The amendment to claim 4 finds basis at page 7, fourth full paragraph. Claim 27 is amended according to page 13, 5th paragraph. Claim 30 is amended to clarify the nature of the invention claimed therein. Claims 33-35 are amended to place them into better U.S. format. The specification is amended to incorporate the limitation of original claim 30. No new matter is entered.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has required restriction between the following two groups of claims:

Group I – claims 1-32, 36 and 37; and

Group II – claims 33-35.

Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I, with traverse, for examination at this time. The Examiner explains the reasons for lack of Unity of Invention as follows:

The groups of inventions listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the special technical feature is a polymer composition comprising a multimodal high density polyethylene and a low density polyethylene; however, it is anticipated by Sainio et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,291,590). Sainio et al. teaches a multimodal ethylene polymer blend used together with certain other polyethylene. The other polyethylene polymer can be a high pressure low density ethylene polymer (col. 3, lines 10-15).

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Without comment as to the Examiner's reasoning, reconsideration of the Examiner's findings is requested in view of the accompanying amendment, which specifies that the density of polyethylene (A) according to claim 1 is outside that disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 6,291,590, which discloses a maximum density of 942 kg/m³ in the exemplary data. Accordingly the special technical feature of the present claims is different from that of the cited reference to Sainio et al.

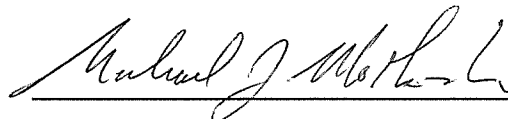
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt notification of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 50-2478 (14455).

If the Examiner has any questions or wishes to discuss this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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